

***Keynote: Michael Smull, Chair, The Learning Community for  
Person Centered Practices***

Michael Smull has been working with people who use long term supports and services for the past 43 years. He is the principle in a small consulting group Support Development Associates ([www.sdaus.com](http://www.sdaus.com)) and the founder and Chair of The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices ([www.learningcommunity.us](http://www.learningcommunity.us)) Mr. Smull is the co-developer of a person centered thinking curricula and of essential lifestyle planning. Mr. Smull has provided training and consultation in 47 states, and 6 countries. He has helped found 3 community agencies, assisted existing agencies to convert from programs to supports, and assisted states, regions, and counties to change their structures to support self-direction. Mr. Smull has written extensively on person centered thinking and planning, the challenge of changing to a person centered system, and issues relating to supporting people with challenging behaviors. He has been a lead consultant on a number of grants and contracts including a “real choice systems change” grant funded by CMS, working Virginia Commonwealth University in 6 states to establish person centered thinking, planning, and practices within the core functions of the DD systems. He is continuing to work with states and agencies in their efforts to have an effective person centered approach to services and supports, including the state operated behavioral services in Minnesota. He is also working with the Administration for Community Living on person centered counseling for the “no wrong door” effort. Mr. Smull is the recipient of the 2015 Compass Award from the National Association of Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services and the 2006 American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities service award.

